sites for prevention of accidents due to handling of hazardous chemicals have been laid down in the relevant sections of the Factories Act, 1948 as amended in 1987. The Manufacture, Storage and import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with a view to prevent accidents and minimise effects of any such accident. Action Plans have been prepared to control pollution in respect of highly polluting industries, critically polluted areas and control of vehicular emissions. The steps taken by the Government to check pollution in cities include the following.

Emission standards for various industries have been prescribed.

Seventeen categories of highly polluting industries have been identified and regular monitoring is carried out by the State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees.

Central Pollution Control Board in consultation with State Pollution Control Boards has identified 24 critically polluted areas in the major Indian cities. Out of twenty four critically polluted areas, time targeted Action Plans have been prepared for fourteen areas.

State Transport Authorities have been asked to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles.

City planners have been advised to incorporate in their plan the long term requirements of mass transportation.

Lead free petrol has been introduced in the four metropolitan cities of India.

yearly inspection of the industries by the State inspectorate of Factories to conduct a mock-drill of the On-site Emergency Plan every six months and submission of the report of the trial by the occupier are mandatory.

A comprehensive guide to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 and a Manual on Emergency Preparedness for Chemical Hazards have been brought out to facilitate better compliance by the concerned industries and the regulatory agencies.

Financial bungling in PSUs in Bihar

4101. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a massive financial bungling in the public sector units FCI, PDIL and BCCL in Bihar was brought to the notice of Government sometime back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the financial irregulrities in these PSUs; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The representation containing certain allegations of financial irregularities in the Sindri unit of the Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd. and the Project & Development India Ltd. was examined to assess whether there was a *prima-facie* case warranting a further probe. None of the allegations could be substantiated by facts.

In regard to the irregularities in Bharat Coal Company Ltd. (BCCL), Ministry of Coal has informed that a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Mishra, the then Chairman of Neyveli Lignite Corpn. (NLC) was constituted to carry out an indepth study of the shortages of coal stocks in BCCL and to pinpoint the responsibility of the executives/management of BCCL. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, disciplinary action was initiated in 265 cases. Action has been completed in respect of 183 cases.